V. Resolutions of the 42nd Session, Panaji(Goa) 5-7 January 1973

Resolution I: The members of the Indian Historical Records Commission deeply mourn the death of Prof. K.R. Qanungo, Prof. H.R.Ghoshal, Prof. Budh Prakash and Dr.M. Seshadri and desire that their sincere condolences be conveyed to the members of the bereaved families.

The resolution was forwarded to the members of the bereaved families.

Resolution II: The Commission reiterates Resolution II of its 33rd Session held in March 1958 recommending that edited texts or calendars of unpublished manuscripts, records or documents, when accompanied by an adequate introduction and critical apparatus, should be given the same recognition as original dissertations on arts or science subjects and should be regarded as equally worthy of consideration for the award of a Doctorate Degree. It was further resolved that the matter should be taken up, not only with the various Universities, but also with the Inter-University Board.

The Resolution was forwarded to the University Grants Commission, the Inter University Board of India and Ceylon and all the Universities represented on the Indian Historical Records Commission. Replies so far received are summarised below:

Sardar Patel University: The University agrees in principle with the recommendation of the 42nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission regarding award of Research Degree for Textual Editing of Documents.

University of Rajasthan: Resolution II passed at the 33rd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Bhubaneswar in March 1958 on the same subject has already been accepted by this University.

Meerut University: The matter is under consideration of the Research Degree Committee of the University.

University of Saugar: The matter is under consideration of the University.

Awadesh Pratap Singh University: The resolution is useful and appropriate.

Utkal University: The University agrees in principle. But each such manuscript, and the genuine character of each of its parts should be subjected to scrutiny before any interpretation or analysis of the manuscript is considered for the award of a research degree.

Resolution III: The members of the Commission assembled at its 42nd Session at Panaji strongly feel that the Commission should not only lay down sound conventions, like those of Indian History Congress, for holding its meetings every year on certain fixed dates, but also consider the question of various categories of members, such as Corresponding Members and Institutional Members, and its procedures, should be reviewed in order to make its working more effective.

It is, therefore, resolved that the Standing Committee should study these and other connected matters in depth and make suitable recommendations.

Standing Committee's Recommendations:

The Standing Committee at its meeting held on 1st September 1973 considered the matter in depth and has made the following recommendations:

I. The Annual Sessions of the Commission:

Annual Sessions of the Commission should be held every year during the last week of October or the first week of November.

II. Membership of the Commission:

Membership of the Commission should be determined afresh to keep the strength within reasonable limits and to remove anomalies. Whereas in earlier years the number of

Members from within the country never exceeded 107, in 1972 the number jumped upto 123. More Universities and other Learned Institutions are bound to come into existence in the Fifth Plan. It, therefore, appears necessary to adopt a mode of selective representation so as to keep the total membership (excluding members from abroad) to a maximum of 120. These 120 members might consist of the following:-

(1) Ex-Officio Members ... 2
(Chairman of the Standing Committee and Secretary)

(2) Nominees of the Government of India ... 20
(to secure the active cooperation of Archivists and Historians of eminence whose valuable participation might not otherwise be available to the Commission).

(3) Representatives of the State Governments or Union Territories ... 2?
(Officers-in-Charge of State Archives where they exist, and officers concerned with Regional Records Survey Committees in other cases, may be associated with the Commission to secure active cooperation of the States which have to implement the Commission's recommendations and policies).

(4) Not more than 50 representatives of Universities having Post-Graduate teaching and research facilities in Modern (Post-1600 A.D.) Indian History, according to the following formula ... 50

(a) Central Universities (since they are expected to be "pace-setters").

(b) All Universities established upto 1948

(c) Balance representing Universities set up after 1948, keeping in view regional representation, development of historical studies etc. (while making nominations Government should give due consideration to possibility of rotation).

(d) College and Learned Institutions affiliated to various Universities need not be given separate representation on the Commission.

(5) Not more than 20 representatives of Learned Institutions which are corporate bodies and other organisations, including Government Organisations (in this category the University Grants Commission, the Reserve Bank of India or Organisation of Nationalised Banks, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Department of Administrative Reforms may be included).

Suitable changes should be made in the relevant clauses of the Constitution of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

III. Appointment of Corresponding Members:

No change is necessary in the provisions for the appointment of Corresponding Members.

IV. Pending cases of appointment of certain nominees of the State Governments/Union Territories/ Universities etc.

The Secretary should take action on items 3 and 4 of the Agenda pertaining to the appointment of nominees of the Government of India, State Governments/Union Territories, Universities etc. as Members of the Commission, without prejudice to the changes in the membership suggested by the Committee.

V. Secretariat of the Commission:

The Deputy Director or Assistant Director of Archives who is directed by the Director of Archives to assist him with the work of the Indian Historical Records Commission, if and when necessary, should be appointed ex-officio Joint Secretary of the Commission.

(Please also see p.54 containing certain more recommendations of the Standing Committee)

Resolution IV: The Commission recommends that suitable notice be taken by the Government of India and the State Governments of the meritorious services of those who had carefully preserved private records, either by preserving those records themselves or by depositing them for safe custody in a properly organised Records Repository or a suitable Learned Institution.

The resolution was forwarded by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their advice in the matter. Their reply is expected soon, and the latest position would be placed before the Commission.

Resolution V: Resolved that all necessary and feasible steps be taken to save from destruction the balance sheets and other connected papers which are submitted by Indian business firms to the Registrars of Companies in various States.

The Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India have forwarded the resolution to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs for necessary action. Their decision in the matter is awaited. The Commission might be informed of the latest position.

Resolution VI: Resolved that, keeping in view the urgency of salvaging and preserving the extremely valuable Government records lying in various offices in the District Headquarters and in the various field offices of the Central and State Governments, the Central and State Governments be strongly urged to open maximum number of Intermediate Record Centres on priority basis, within their respective areas, to collect, list and preserve these records. These Records Centres should be fully manned with qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographic facilities. The facilities should be available, not only for the Government records but should also be extended to the libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who have valuable private records, manuscripts ect. in their possession.

Action taken by the Government of India on the above resolution and replies received from the State Governments are summarised below:

Government of India: In the fifth Five-Year Plan, a provision has been made for the setting up of two Record Centres of the National Archives of India. These will be in addition to the present Branch of the National Archives of India at Bhopal. The proposed Record Centres will cater to the needs of the Learned Institutions and Libraries in the area for repair and microfilming of records and documents.

Rajasthan: Rajasthan has already opened Intermediary Repositories at Alwar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Udaipur. Provision was made in the 4th Five-Year Plan for appointment of Assistant Archivists to be posted in these Record Centres. In the 5th Plan, there are proposals for some more posts of Archivists for a couple of repositories, and for a post of Preservation Assistant and one of Binder for each of these five repositories. Steps have, however, to be taken to provide five new buildings for all the Intermediary Repositories so that the non-current records created by the various Departments during the last twenty years might be preserved there. There is, however, scope for the setting up of the Record Centres by the Government of India for the preservation of non-current records of their various Departments in Rajasthan. If the Government of India open their Record Centres in the Rajasthan and equip these with reprographic equipment, Rajasthan shall take advantage of it.

Maharashtra: With the creation of two posts of Archivists, one for the Aurangabad Repository and the other for Nagpur as nucleus staff, these Regional Archives Offices have started functioning. Besides these, Maharashtra State Archives has two more Regional Archival Repositores viz. the Alienation Office, Poona and the Kolhapur Record Office, Kolhapur.

Uttar Pradesh: The State Government has opened a Regional Record Office at Allahabad during the current financial year, which will be treated as an Intermediate Record Centre. The Office is under the charge of a Regional Record Officer. It is proposed to open more such Regional Record Offices in the State during the 5th Five-Year Plan period. These Offices will provide all facilities including photography to all Research Scholars.

(N.B. Resolution XIV of the 41st Session of the Commission also recommended the opening of Regional or Divisional Archives in each Commissioner's Division. The Replies received from Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Laccadives, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were already reported to the Commission at its 42nd Session vide Conspectus of action taken on the resolutions of the 41st Session of the Commission).

Resolution VII: Resolved that the Central and State Governments may be requested to throw open records relating to persons and parties involved in the political movements during pre-Independence days which were in the custody of the Central Bureau of Intelligence, the State Police Departments and Departments of Criminal Investigation for the use of Research Scholars.

The resolution was duly forwarded by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, State Governments and Union Territories for necessary action. Their replies are awaited.

> Resolution VIII: Resolved that the Government of India be requested to permit the bonafide Research Scholars the use of historical maps of the Survey of India available with the National Archives of India and elsewhere with minimum restrictions.

The resolution was forwarded by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare to the Ministries of External Affairs and Defence for necessary action. The matter is being taken up with these Ministries in the meeting of the officials concerned to be held on 24 November 1973.

> Resolution IX: Resolved that this body requests the State Governments to enact a law to bring under over-all supervision of the State Archives Services, records preserved by private bodies like maths, temples, churches, societies, libraries, museums, universities and learned institutions in their respective States.

The resolution was forwarded to all the State Governments and Union Territories for necessary action. The following reply has been received.

Delhi: The Delhi Administration is of opinion that there should be a law for declaring certain categories of records of maths, temples, churches etc. as national importance so as to protect the said records from dispersal, destruction and neglect.

Delhi being a Union Territory, does not have legislative powers to enact any law. Nevertheless, extension of any act of any State Government or Central Government on the subject would be considered. But it would be appropriate if the Central Law is made applicable to all Union Territories where there is no legislative body.

Resolution X: Resolved that the Government of India be requested to introduce the promised Legislation on Archives as early as possible.

The resolution was forwarded to the Government of India for their consideration. However, as explained at the 42nd Session, it is contemplated to enact an Archival Law applicable to the Union as well as the States and this is likely to take some time as the concurrence of the minimum number of State Governments is required for the purpose. In the meantime action is being taken in the field of management and administration of the records of the Union Government under the Archival Policy Resolution adopted by the Government of India in December 1972. The State Governments have also been advised to issue similar Archival Policy Resolutions for their records, though no progress is reported by any State Government so far in this matter.

Resolution XI: Resolved that all State Governments should evolve as early as possible a well articulated retirement policy for their records and prepare retention schedules for records at all levels in line with the rules of the Central Government.

The resolution was forwarded to all the State Governments and Union Territories. Replies received are summarised below:

Delhi: The contents of the resolution have been noted for necessary action.

Himachal Pradesh: The Government has already drafted a retention schedule of records for all the Departments with the objective of "weeding as we go". The Schedule is being incorporated in the draft of the Office Manual for adoption by all the Departments of the State Government.

Madhya Pradesh: The matter is under consideration of the State Government.

Mizoram: It has not been possible to take any action on the resolution. The matter will be reported to the Commission as and when any concrete action is taken.

Resolution XII: The Commission notes with regret that, inspite of its earlier recommendations, vide Resolution No.IV of its 31st Session held in 1955 and Resolution No.3(a) of the 36th Session held in 1961, the Government of India had not so far made arrangements for the manufacture of the Standard Quality Paper recommended by the ISI in consultation with the National Archives of India, with the result that the Union and State Governments, as well as others, were obliged to use low quality paper for their permanent records. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommends that urgent measures be adopted, either for manufacturing this paper in India, or for importing it from abroad, as in the long run the use of quality paper for permanent records would not only prove more economical, but was absolutely essential, keeping in view the importance of these records for the future generations.

The Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India have forwarded the resolution to the (i) Chief Controller of Printing and Stationery, (ii) Director General, Supplies and Disposals, (iii) Department of Administrative Reforms, (iv) Indian Standard Institution, and (v) Ministry of Industrial Development for their comments. Further action will be taken after the receipt of their views on the subject.

Resolution XIII: Resolved that appropriate aurhorities be moved to direct their attention to the archives of the Municipal Corporations and other Local Bodies, who should be asked to ensure their preservation in properly organised Record Rooms to be looked after by suitable staff. Further resolved that these records be regularly appraised and proper lists or catalogues be prepared of the permanent records, which should be made available for research to bonafide scholars.

The resolution was forwarded to all the State Governments and Union Territories. Reply received from the following States:

Maharashtra: The matter has been referred to the State Government.

Mizoram: It has not been possible to take any action on the resolution. The Commission will be informed as and when any concrete action is taken. The State Government has been further advised that action on the above resolution need not await the setting up of the Archives Department.

Resolution XIV: The Commission recommends that very early steps be taken by the Government of India for holding a seminar of the archivists and historians of the Indian Ocean countries to discuss about the records of mutual interest and relating to the history of one another. The record holdings of each of these countries contain materials of interest for the history of other countries in the region, concerning their cultural, social and economic aspects.

A complete projects for holding the Seminar or Symposium was drawn up by the National Archives of India, a modest financial support has been secured from UNESCO and the project is being cleared by the Government of India after consultations between the Ministries concerned. The Symposium is reported to be held before the end of 1974.

Resolution XV: The members of the Indian Historical Records Commission assembled at its 42nd Session at Panaji, heartily thank the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu for kindly inviting them to meet at this historic city, full of beauty, and with an exceptionally rich archives. The members in particular appreciate the hospitality extended and the arrangements made for their stay and for their work during the Session. It is resolved that the above sentiments be conveyed to the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu.

Copies of the resolution was forwarded to Shri S.K. Banerji, Lt. Governor, Shri D.B. Bandodkar, the then Chief Minister, Shrimati Sashikala G. Kakodkar, the then Minister of State for Education and Social Welfare, the Minister of Forest and Industry, Shri S.N. Goel, Officiating Chief Secretary, Dr. J.L. Almeida, Secretary, Department of Education and Tourism and Dr. V.T. Gune, Local Secretary and Director of Historical Archives of Goa, Daman and Diu.